Clarification Questions - Evaluation of Natural England's pilot project: Building species into Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs)

**Q: I wondered if there was any further information available on the 8 pilot areas, and also whether the output from phase 1 is available to share? This could help inform how we design the work in the tender.**

A: The 8 pilot areas are as follows: East and West Sussex, Kent, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and South of Tyne.  They’re a mixture of locations across the country representing rural and urban LNRS areas with a mixture of pressures and challenges as well as differing degrees of environmental habitats and protected landscapes.  Further to this, we also have 3-4 areas which have already completed some species work in relation to LNRS and are participating in the evaluation as well such as Cumbria, Hampshire and Wiltshire.

**Q: It seems like the output from Phase 3 is required to input into Phase 4, but the timing over laps and presents a risk. Have I missed something about the phase 4 work so that it is more independent of phase 3 or is the timing tight?**

A: You are correct in that the timing is tight.  It should be possible to run some of the Phase 4 work into April to allow Phase 3 to complete and to not put unnecessary pressure on a supplier to rush the final report

**Q. Scope of evaluation Questions.** **We note in the RFQ that a list of evaluation questions has been developed. It is hard to know the scope and scale of the evaluation fieldwork without seeing these questions, or having a sense of how many questions there are, can they be clustered, how detailed they are, how sensitive they are etc.  Seeing the list would allow us to design a methodology to accurately fit the scope, as well as manage risks that are otherwise absorbed by us as suppliers.  Can we see the list of evaluation questions, even if this is a draft?**

A. I am pleased to enclose below our draft of evaluation questions.  You will see there are themes to be picked out.

Internal staff who have already completed species projects in their area

* Methodology – what method did you follow in your project?  Did you come up with a list of species?  How?  Did you prioritise the list?  How long did it take?  Did you bring in any locally important species to the list and how?  How much did it cost?  What stakeholders were involved in the process?
* What were the key issues you encountered and how did you overcome them?  What additional support or tools would have been useful?  What expertise did you find most useful or was lacking?
* What more do you think needs to be done in the species ‘journey’ for LNRS?
* In helping to understand the data journey – what is the business model for your local LERC/WT/LA on access to data?

2-3 workshops with the eight existing pilot area staff and their corresponding partners.  Questions tend to fall into two themes – the process and methodology, then what the data is showing.

* What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of the trialled approach?
* Did the criteria provide a clear steer on what was required?
* What concerns you about doing this task?
* What does the data look like? what is it telling us?  what other attributes in the data would be useful?
* What was most challenging about incorporating the species data into the LNRS thinking?
* What did you learn about the data outputs from SEB? What more/different would you need?
* What outcomes/things did you learn from your local discussions about the data or process, what are the next steps for you to continue on this species journey for LNRS?
* Would there be anything further e.g. tools, guidance, which would help?
* In helping to understand the data journey – what is the business model for your local LERC/WT/LA on access to data?
* What further role can NE play to support this process?

Workshop with the project team staff

Taking the feedback from previous workshops and summarising to us

* What was achieved/what wasn’t?
* Did the process adequately account for decision making and input at the local level?
* What doesn’t work - what we should leave out?
* How can we make the process better / more efficient for LNRS rollout?
* A list of needs for rollout e.g. an excel template, FAQ document or a guidance note or something

**Q. can we ask if the first workshop really needs to be separate from workshops 2-3?  Our reading of it is that there is some basic factual information that needs collating from NE staff about how each project worked (mostly your first cluster of bullets below), and our recommendation is to do this outside a workshop to make it more efficient, either via a shared online worksheet and/or survey.**

A. I can confirm that would be an acceptable approach